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FM AMEMBASSY RIGA  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5727  
INFO RUEHZG/NATO EU COLLECTIVE PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L RIGA 000173

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR SCA/A (REOTT), EUR/RPM (COPE) AND EUR/ERA  
(WEISFIELD)

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/26/2019  
TAGS: NATO PREL MOPS MARR AF LG  
SUBJECT: LATVIA TO MAINTAIN ITS AFGHANISTAN PRESENCE

REF: STATE 28929

Classified By: Charge d' Affaires a.i. Bruce Rogers, for Reasons 1.4 (b)  
) and (d)

¶1. (C) Charge delivered reftel points to MFA Political Director Peteris Ustubs on March 26. Ustubs welcomed the information on deliverables sought for the NATO and US-EU Summits, and said that the GOL is supportive of USG goals. He stated that even with the extreme financial crisis that Latvia is experiencing, the GOL will not diminish its presence in Afghanistan. He reinforced that this commitment comes from the President and PM, and has been echoed by the MFA, Ministry of Defense and Ministry of Finance.

¶2. (C) Though increasing Latvia's presence in Afghanistan would be difficult at this time, Ustubs did inquire as to our position regarding the French proposal to send EU gendarmerie to Afghanistan. He said that the GOL would prefer that such a force be attached to ISAF, rather than EUPOL.

ROGERS